

a plurality of links to couple each local server to a set of viewer receivers without coupling the viewer receivers together, each local server to transmit viewable data objects to viewer receivers; and

at least one storage server to store the viewable data objects and to transmit a subset of the stored data objects to the local servers in response [responsive] to [different expected] demands made by the local servers [there present].

2. (Amended) The network of claim 1, wherein the at least one storage server is adapted to transmit the viewable data objects based on priorities determined by the local server identity and viewable data object content.

3. (Amended) The network of claim 1, wherein each local server is adapted to transmit the viewable data objects to a plurality of viewer televisions.

4. (Amended) The network of claim 1, wherein each local server is capable of deleting a first viewable data object to free space to store a new viewable data object in response to [the] a priority [for] of the new viewable data object being higher than [the] a priority for the first viewable data object.

5. (Amended) The network of claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of [second] additional local servers to store subsets of the viewable data objects;

a plurality of [second] additional links to couple each [second] additional local server to a distinct set of [second] additional viewer receivers without coupling the [second] additional viewer receivers together, each [second] additional local server to transmit viewable data objects to [second] additional viewer receivers; and

[a second] an additional storage server to store the viewable data objects and to transmit a subset of the [stored] viewable data objects to the [second] additional local servers

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[responsive] in response to [different expected] demands made by the additional
local servers [there present]; and

a hardware manager to automatically distribute new viewable data objects to the [first]
at least one storage server and to the additional [and second] storage server[s].

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7. (Amended) The network of claim [6] 5, wherein the [network] hardware manager is adapted
to control work queues for data objects stored on the local servers.

8. (Amended) The network of claim 1, wherein the local servers support restricted viewer
streaming control, access to viewer streaming control being restricted [based on one of]
on the basis of a characteristic selected from a group consisting of an event[s], a local
server locality, and viewable data object content [of data objects].

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9. (Amended) A network for transmitting viewable data objects interactively, comprising:

a plurality of local servers to store subsets of the viewable data objects;

a plurality of lines to couple each local server to a set of viewer receivers without
coupling viewer receivers together, each local server to transmit a viewable data
object to a viewer receiver in response to receiving a request therefrom; and

at least one storage server to store the viewable data objects and to transmit a subset of
the stored data objects to the local servers [responsive] in response to different
[expected] demands made by the local servers [there present].

10. (Amended) The network of claim 9, wherein the storage server is adapted to transmit
particular viewable data objects to particular local servers based on priorities determined
by the identity of the particular local servers and the content of the particular viewable
data objects.

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11. (Amended) The network of claim 10 [9], wherein [a portion] at least one of the priorities can
be dynamically updated by events.

13. (Amended) The network of claim 9, wherein the local servers support streaming control of viewable data objects by viewers, said control being restricted [based] on the basis of a characteristic selected from a group consisting [one] of an event[s], a local server locality, and viewable data object content [of data objects].

14. (Amended) The network of claim 9, wherein each local server is capable of deleting a first viewable data object to free space to store a new viewable data object if [the] a priority for the new viewable data object is higher than [the] a priority for the first viewable data object.

15. (Amended) The network of claim 9, further comprising:

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a plurality of [second] additional local servers to store subsets of the viewable data objects;

a plurality of [second] additional lines to couple each [second] additional local server to a set of [second] additional viewer receivers without coupling the additional viewer receivers together, each [second] additional local server to transmit a viewable data object to [a second] an additional viewer receiver in response to receiving a request therefrom; and

[a second] an additional storage server to store the viewable data objects and to transmit a subset of the stored data objects to the [second] additional local servers in response [responsive] to different [expected] demands [there present] made by the additional local servers; and

a hardware manager to automatically distribute new viewable data objects to the [first] at least one storage server and [second] to the additional storage servers.

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18. (Amended) The network of claim 9, wherein the at least one storage server is capable of transmitting a group of viewable data objects to each local server as a single unit and the

local servers are capable of storing and later deleting the group of data objects as a single unit.

19. (Amended) The network of claim 15 [9], wherein the [network] hardware manager is adapted to control work queues for data objects stored on the local servers.

20. (Amended) A cable television network, comprising:

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a plurality of local servers to transmit viewable data objects to different viewer televisions, each local server to transmit a viewable data object to one of the televisions in response to a request from the one of the televisions; and

a device to transmit viewable data objects to each of the local servers, the device capable of transmitting different data objects to the different local servers.

21. (Amended) The network of claim 20, wherein the local servers form a star-shaped network about the device.

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23. (Amended) The network of claim 20, wherein the local servers support restricted viewer streaming control, access to viewer streaming control being restricted on the basis of a characteristic selected from a group consisting [based on one] of an event[s], a local server locality, and viewable data object content [of data objects].

25. (Amended) The network of claim 24, wherein the hardware manager is adapted to control work queues for data objects stored on the local servers.

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26. (Amended) A method of distributing viewable data objects to viewer receivers, the method comprising:

selecting a first viewable data object from a pool of viewable data objects in response to a first preselected event;

selecting a second viewable data object from the pool in response to a second preselected event;

transmitting the first and second viewable data objects to respective first and second local servers, the first and second objects being responsive to different priorities of the respective first and second local servers for viewable data object content;
sending [a] the first viewable data object from the first local server to a first viewer receiver; and
sending [a] the second viewable data object from the second local server to a second viewer receiver.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the act[s] of sending the first data object and the act of sending the second data object are executed in response to requests from the viewer receivers.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the act[s] of selecting a first viewable data object and the act of selecting a second viewable data object are executed [based], in part, on the basis of operations data received from the local servers.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

sending a list of available viewable data objects to the first local server; and
wherein the act of selecting a first viewable data object is executed in response [responsive] to receiving the list and to priorities for data object content at the first local server.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

receiving a request for a viewable data object from the first viewer receiver; and
wherein the act of selecting a first data object is executed in response [ive] to receiving the request from the first viewer receiver.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

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transmitting meta data from a central manager to the local servers; and

receiving a request for a viewable data object from a viewer['s] receiver in response to streaming a portion of the meta data on the viewer['s] receiver.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the act of selecting includes calculating a delay with operations data from the first local server; and

wherein transmitting a first viewable data object is performed after the delay ends; and further comprising:

storing a portion of the first viewable data object in storage space of the first local server freed at the end of the delay.

33. (Amended) A network to provide viewable data objects to television viewers interactively, the network comprising:

a plurality of local servers to store viewable data objects, each local server to transmit particular viewable data objects to a distinct and different set of televisions, each local server to transmit a particular viewable data object to one of the televisions in response to receiving a request from the one of the televisions; and

a storage server coupled to distribute viewable data objects to the local servers, the storage server being responsive to [actual and expected] demands of the sets of televisions connected to each different local server.

REMARKS

Applicants amend the claims to address all §112 rejections and to more particularly point out the claimed subject matter. In particular, Applicants amend claims 5 and 15 to replace the adjective "second" with the adjective "additional." This amendment distinguishes the additional elements recited in those claims from corresponding elements in claim 1 without the need to